

WEBSTER GENEALOGY.

COMPILED AND PRINTED

FOR

PRESENTATION ONLY

1836

BY

NOAH WEBSTER.

NEW HAVEN:

1836.

WITH

NOTES AND CORRECTIONS

BY

HIS GREAT-GRANDSON,

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

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GENEALOGY.

The following account has been compiled by N. Webster.

Family of John Webster.

John Webster, the progenitor of a large family of that name in Connecticut, was from Warwickshire in England. He was one of the original settlers in Hartford, and one of the founders of the republic of Connecticut. From the formation of the constitution in 1639, to the year 1659, he was chosen to office, and as a magistrate or judge, he assisted in administering the government, from 1639 to 1655, when he was elected deputy governor, and 1656 governor. In the three following years he was chosen first magistrate.

In consequence of a long controversy in the church, of which Mr. Stone was pastor, (for an account of which, see Trumbull's History of Connecticut, Vol. I. Chap. 13,) John Webster and his sons, with a number of their friends, determined to purchase a large tract of land in Massachusetts, and remove with their families. The agreement for this purpose was dated at Hartford, April 18th, 1659, and signed by *fifty nine* persons, belonging to Hartford and Wethersfield, including one or two from Windsor. The tract of land which they purchased included the present towns of Hadley, Amherst, South Hadley, and Granby, on the east side of the river Connecticut, and Hatfield and a part of Williamsburg, on the west side. John Webster's name stands at the head of the list of subscribers; the agreement is also signed by Robert his son. This agreement is recorded on the records of Hadley.

In the same year, 1659, the signers or some part of them, entered upon the work of preparing for settlement in Hadley. John Webster went probably to assist or superintend the laying out of the roads, and other business, but he lodged in Northampton. There he was taken sick, and made his will, which is

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dated June 25, 1659. This will is recorded on the probate records of Hampshire county, and a copy of it now lies before the writer. It is witnessed by John Russel, Jun. (minister of Hadley,) and Eleazar Mather, (minister of Northampton.)

Mr. Webster recovered from that sickness, and was appointed one of the judges of the court, or as he is called, a commissioner. The judges of the court were John Webster, John Pyncheon and Samuel Chapin. The court was held alternately at Northampton, and at Springfield. On the 26th of March, 1661, a court was held at Northampton, and Mr. Webster was present, and he with others took the freeman's oath, before Mr. Pyncheon, and Mr. Holyoke, who was recorder. But Mr. Webster died on the 5th of April, and undoubtedly was buried in Hadley, according to a direction in his will.*

John Webster's consort was named Agnes; and as her husband by will gave her the use of his house and lands in Hartford during her life, it is probable that she remained in Hartford after his death and died there. The house of John Webster stood on the east side of the highway, running north and south on the east side of the hill on which stood the house of the late George Wyllys, and his house was nearly east of the Wyllys house.

It appears by John Webster's will and by other documents, that he had four sons, Robert, Matthew, William and Thomas, and three daughters. Matthew is first named in the will, but Robert was probably the eldest son, as he was named sole executor, and received the largest portion of the estate.

Matthew settled at Farmington. His name is not among those of the *eighty four* original proprietors, who formed a company for settling in Farmington in 1645. But by the records it appears he was there in 1650, and from that year to 1671; when, being unable to support himself, William Judd and John Woodruff undertook to provide for him and his son *John*, during their lives. In compensation, Matthew Webster conveyed to them two parcels of land. It is not known when he died.†

There was a Thomas Webster also, who owned land in Farmington in 1650; but whether he was the son of John, hereafter mentioned, is not certain; if not, nothing further of him is known.

* Noah Webster, when he resided in Amherst, erected a monument to his ancestor in Hadley burying ground.
† Extracts from the records of Farmington, communicated by Samuel Richards and Horace Cowles, Esquires.

John Webster, by his will, gave his lands in Hadley to his sons William and Thomas. William married Mary Reeves in 1671. He resided in Hadley, and died there about the year 1687 or '88, and probably without children. His wife, Mary Reeves, was accused of witchcraft about the year 1684—5, and her testimony was taken and sent to Boston. She however died in peace in 1696.

Thomas Webster, the son of John, removed to Northampton, where in 1663, he married Abigail Alexander, and by whom he had three children, Abigail, George and John. He sold his lands in Northampton, and purchased lands in Northfield, and removed to that town about the year 1673. In 1675, Northfield was attacked by Indians and the settlement broken up, and from 1676 to 1682, Thomas Webster resided in Hadley, where he had three daughters born. He afterwards returned to Northfield, where he died in 1686. Northfield was again destroyed by the Indians, and the settlers driven from the place; but the children of Thomas probably remained in that neighborhood, for I have known one person of that name, Ezekiel Webster of Northfield, who was in the house of representatives of Massachusetts with me in 1814, and I knew another in Bernardston.

One of John Webster's daughters, Anne, married John Marsh of Hadley, and died June 9th, 1662. Another married William Markham of Hadley, who afterwards returned to Connecticut. A third daughter, Mary, married one Hunt, but she died before the year 1659. She left two children, Jonathan Hunt, the ancestor of the Hunts in Northampton, and Mary Hunt, who married John Ingersoll of Westfield, from whom have descended the Ingersolls in Connecticut.*

Robert Webster was probably the eldest son of John. He was chosen to represent the town of Middletown in 1656, 1657, 1658, and 1659. He was sole executor of the will of his father, and probably did not remove his family to Hadley, or if he did, he returned to Hartford very soon. He died in 1676, and a copy of his will dated May 20th, in that year, (taken from the records in Hartford,) witnessed by Thomas Stedman and Phineas Wilson, is now before the writer. He gave all his estate to his consort Susannah, ^{first} during her widowhood. She remained a widow till her death. Her will is dated January 23d, 1698. In this she bequeathed her estate to her five sons named, and to the

* Letter from Sylvester Judd, Esq. of Northampton.

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children of John her eldest son, deceased. The sons then of Robert Webster, were John, Jonathan, Samuel, Robert, Joseph and William. He also had four daughters; *Susannah*, who was married to John Grave of Hartford, and died before her mother; *Mary*, who was married to Thomas King; *Eliza*, who was married to John Seamore, (probably Seymour,) and *Sarah* who was married to *Joseph Mygatt*. Nov. 15. 1677.

Children of Robert Webster.

JOHN, 2d, who died in 1694.

JONATHAN, who married Dorcas Hopkins in 1681 and died in 1735. -

SAMUEL, who died in 1734.

ROBERT, 2d, who married Hannah Beckly and died in 1744.

JOSEPH, who died in 1750.

WILLIAM, who died in 1722. wife *Sarah Nichols*.

Children of John Webster, 2d, eldest son of Robert, 1st.

JOHN, 3d, who married Abiel Steele in 1712, and died in 1753. He settled in Southington.

EBENEZER, who died old. I remember him.

JACOB, who married Elizabeth Nichols, and died in 1728.

DANIEL, my grandfather, born in 1693, the year before his father died, and deceased in 1765. He was the youngest child. He married Miriam Kellogg in 1719. I remember his funeral.

SARAH, *to Joseph Talbot. Samuel Root. May 1st 1737. Family.*

ANN.

ABIGAIL, who married Jacob Merrill in 1710.

Children of Daniel Webster.

DANIEL, who died young.

NOAH, my father, born March 25th, O. S. 1722, married Mercy Steele, daughter of Eliphalet Steele, in 1749. He died Nov. 9th, 1813, aged 91 years and seven months.

ZEPHANIAH, born June 1st, 1724, and died in March, 1761. He left two sons, Bavi and Zephaniah, who died in middle life.

ABRAM, who died in 1751.

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Goodrich Oct, 1. 1816.

HARRIET, born April 6, 1797, married first to Edward H. Cobb of Portland, May 22, 1816 : afterward to William Chauncey Fowler July 26, 1825.

MARY, born January 7, 1799, married to Horatio Southgate of Portland. and died February 28, 1819, leaving one daughter, Mary Webster Southgate.

WILLIAM GREENLEAF, born September 15, 1801, married Rosalie Eugene Stuart of Virginia, May 5, 1831 ; removed to Cincinnati in 1835.

ELIZA STEELE, born December 21, 1803, married to Henry Jones September 5, 1825.

HENRY BRADFORD, born November 20, 1806, died about 10 weeks old.

LOUISA, born April 12, 1808.

Other branches of the family.

JONATHAN WEBSTER, second son of Robert, first married Dorcas Hopkins in 1681, and died 1735. His children were,

JONATHAN, born March 18, 1682.

SUSANNAH, born April 25, 1686, married to Thomas Steele in 1709.

MARY, born September 29, 1688, married to J. Brace 1706.

MEHITABEL, born March 8, 1691, married to David Bidwell in 1714

STEPHEN, born January 1, 1693, married Mary Burnham in 1717.

BENJAMIN, born August 9, 1698. He removed to Litchfield.

Jonathan, the eldest son above named, married Esther Judd in 1704. He died about 1758. His issue,

JONATHAN, who settled in Glastenbury. - 1765 -

EZEKIEL, who married Rebecca Gaines in 1731, and settled in East Hartford. He died in 1756.

Also *Stephen, Esther, Jemima, Mehitabel. Dorcas, Sarah, Mary, and David.*

ROBERT WEBSTER, fourth son of Robert, married Hannah Beckley in 1689, died in 1744. His issue were,

ROBERT, born in 1689.

ABRAM, born in 1693.

HANNAH, born in 1695.